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**Springfield, IL** – Illinois Senate Assistant Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford (D-Maywood) released the following statement today regarding legislation that will increase the state's minimum wage:

*"From my first day in the Senate, I've fought for minimum wage earners. It's an issue that remains near and dear to my heart and agenda. There has rightfully been a lot of discussion lately about how to improve the state's business climate. But as we go forward, I want to make sure that minimum wage workers aren't ignored and forgotten. Their issues and rights need to be part of the discussion. Senate Bill 1565 will help to keep this important issue on the table as the General Assembly works to keep Illinois competitive and fair for business and workers. I look forward to working with all parties on a comprehensive effort."*